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Rated Best Sofas
New York Magazine's
2007 Best of New York

American Leather
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BDI
Blue Dot
Calligaris
DellaRobbia
Ekornes
Fontana Arte
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Maria Yee
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Surya Rugs
TEMA
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RETAIL + TRADE + DESIGN

MILO BAUGHMAN AND GUY HILL FOR THAYER COGGIN

BUSINESS BRIEFS
Compiled by Mariel Cohn

Mother's Day gifts

Natural beauty products at Korres on Montague St.



The new Korres Natural Products store at 140 Montague St.

Korres Natural Products USA just opened on Montague Street!

This store is loaded with all-natural beauty products your mother will love: illuminating bronzing powder, and watermelon tinted moisturizer (S.P.F. 30), to name a few. Korres developed a chain of 100% natural, organic, and pharmaceuticals in Athens, Greece, and its products are completely free of any harsh synthetics. Instead, the brand blends herbs with pharmaceutical properties, like calendula, echinacea, and hypericum to create amazing everyday products.

Korres also uses Greek flora and herbs, (thyme, basil, lavender, mint, rosemary, yarrow, and many more) and other natural raw ingredients. Korres Natural Products USA, as a result, is a high-end, natural beauty collection that works to rejuvenate and nurture your skin, hair and body. The store's interior resembles a bazaar with oversized palette containers and pharmaceutical descriptions.

Korres Natural Products USA is at 140 Montague St. between Henry and Clinton Streets in Brooklyn Heights. Open Monday through Friday 10 am to 8 pm, Saturday 10 am to 7 pm, Sunday noon to 6 pm. All major credit cards.

Jewels by Satnick

Jewels By Satnick has been serving the Downtown Brooklyn community for over 48 years, through generations of the same family.

They are experts at finding wonderful Mother's Day gifts for all kinds of tastes and in all price ranges. Located at 187 State St., Jewels By Satnick offers a stunning array of jewelry and giftware, and also has the only certified watchmaker in the area.

Call 718-852-4242 for distance destinations, airport, medical pick-ups and drop-offs.

255 Myrtle St. (718) 230-9100

Maple Lanes 1570 60th St. (718) 331-8000

Car Service

Myrtle Myrtle Car & Limousine Service

255 Myrtle St. (718) 230-9100

Great sale on sofas, chairs

At Haystack Home & Body, save 20 percent on special orders from their versatile collection of sofas, sectionals, sleepers and chairs from Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams. You'll find modern and traditional pieces, as well as custom-made furniture. With the numerous fabric choices, the possibilities will be perfect in any room of the house (or Mom's!). Even better, take 40 percent off all the floor models featured in the store.

For other kinds of gifts, how about personalized 14 carat or sterling silver charms? Haystack Home & Body (starting at \$100+) offers designer special-order cards and gifts (\$30). Special for Mother's Day, Haystack is offering 10 percent off all jewelry in stock. This sale ends May 11th.

Haystack Home & Body, 130 Clinton St. between Joralemon and Livingston streets, open Monday through Saturday 10 am to 8 pm, Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. All major credit cards.

Annual Rose Wine Festival

Rose wines, which are dry, not sweet wines, are the "official" wines to drink when the weather gets warm, says Darren Seigfried, sommelier of Red, White and Bubbly in Park Slope. The wine is perfect for aperitifs, dinner parties, and goes well with fish, sandwiches, fish, shrimp, and a number of meats. It has an aromatic and flavorful quality that people around the world find hard to resist, and make a great Mother's Day gift, too.

Red, White and Bubbly Annual Rose Festival — on Saturday, May 3, 2008, 2 and 6 pm — is a wonderful opportunity to taste a variety of rose wines from around the world, as well as learn about the process that goes into making them.

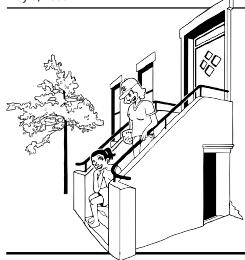
All rose wines will be selling for 10 percent off, and cases of twelve will be sold at 15 percent off.

Red, White and Bubbly, 211 Fifth Ave. off Union Street in Park Slope, open Saturday, May 3, 2008, 10 am to 10 pm, Sunday noon to 8 pm. (718) 636-WINE www.RedWhiteandBubbly.com. All major credit cards.

BrooklynShops

The Brooklyn Paper's Guide to Local Services & Merchants

Art Gallery <i>Brooklyn Artisans Gallery</i> 2214 Court St. (718) 330-0343	Carpet <i>Boro Rug & Carpet Warehouse</i> 1141 37th Ave. (718) 853-3000	Florist <i>Korres</i> 107-109 Atlantic Ave. (718) 625-2066	Hardware <i>Clinton Hill Hardware</i> 452 Myrtle Ave. (718) 237-7827	Housewares <i>American Housewares</i> 85 Court St. (718) 243-0844
Auto Care <i>Park West Auto Service</i> 576 Union Street (718) 875-2405	Cell Phones <i>Cobble Hill Wireless</i> 485 Henry St. (718) 243-0844	Framing <i>BROOKLYN FRAME WORKS</i> 142 Fifth Ave. (718) 359-6613	Health Clubs <i>Sid's Hardware</i> 345 Jay St. (718) 875-2259	Jewelry <i>Jewels by Satnick</i> 187 State St. (718) 852-4242
Baby Clothing <i>Olá Baby</i> 315 Court St. (718) 422-1978	Chocolate <i>Smart Chocolates</i> 291 Avenue R (718) 375-1277	Cleaners <i>Bridgestone Cleaners</i> 109 Front Street (718) 222-9558	Gardening <i>Chesnut Garden Center</i> 444 Van Brunt St. (718) 727-3434	Lodging <i>Eastern Athletic</i> Full service, state-of-the-art facility offering a variety of sports, including, free weight, cardio, spinning, 43 Clark St. (718) 625-0500
Balloons <i>Unique Balloons</i> 8402 18th Ave. (718) 331-8005	Clothing <i>Luce on the Hook</i> 281 Van Brunt St. (718) 852-1345	Coffee <i>DIG</i> 309 Court Street (718) 875-5403	Health Food <i>Perelandra Natural Foods</i> 175 Remsen St. (718) 855-0608	Martial Arts <i>mission</i> 517 Henry St. (718) 585-5676
Books <i>BMS Bookmark Shoppe</i> 6908 11th Ave. (718) 880-3680	Computer <i>Mac Support Store</i> Brooklyn's first Apple computer repair shop is open 7 days a week. For all your Apple needs, from recovery classes, new & used products, 158 Seventh St. (718) 312-0341	Fencing <i>Brooklyn Fencing Center</i> 62 Fourth Street (718) 522-5622	Meats <i>Mill Lane Nursery</i> 129 Louisiana St. (917) 682-6088	Pharmacy <i>Los Pasionas Meat Market</i> 102 Smith St. (718) 855-2641
Bowling <i>Maple Lanes</i> 1570 60th St. (718) 331-8000	Framing <i>Dig</i> 309 Court Street (718) 875-5403	Furniture <i>Bob & Judy's Coopables</i> 217 Fifth Ave. (718) 638-5770	Home Décor <i>re:CO</i> Dedicated to fresh modern aesthetics. Home, office, furnishings, lighting & decor in a seamless environment. 372 Atlantic Ave. (718) 797-2077	Printing <i>Brooklyn Heights Pavilion</i> 70 Henry St. (718) 595-5095
Myrtle <i>Myrtle Car & Limousine Service</i> 255 Myrtle St. (718) 230-9100	Gifts <i>RePop 95% Recycled</i> 66 Washington Ave. (718) 200-8032	Hair Care <i>Allegria Hair Salon</i> 335 Adams St. (718) 875-5500	Health Food <i>Clinton Nails</i> 400 Fifth Ave. (718) 369-3103	Movie Theater <i>Brooklyn Heights Pavilion</i> 70 Henry St. (718) 595-5095
Car Service	Fencing <i>Haystack</i> 130 Clinton St. (718) 246-2510	Furniture <i>Kithenology, LLC</i> 4212 Third Ave. (718) 985-4900	Meats <i>Perfectly Pounded</i> 88 Atlantic Ave. (347) 844-9334	Nail Salon <i>Clinton Nails</i> 400 Fifth Ave. (718) 369-3103
Myrtle <i>Myrtle Car & Limousine Service</i> 255 Myrtle St. (718) 230-9100	Furniture <i>Tortello di Ricotta E Spinaci Burro E Salvia</i> Homemade tortellini filled with spinach & ricotta, in butter & sage sauce	Gifts <i>Gnocchi di Melanzane</i> Potato & eggplant gnocchi with mozzarella garnished with basil	Meats <i>Tortello Sorrentina</i> Homemade tortellini topped with prosciutto, mozzarella in a brown sauce	Real Estate <i>d'mai</i> 211 Court St. (718) 825-3700
Car Service	Furniture <i>Pollo Scamorciello</i> Chicken breast sautéed with garlic, white wine, oregano & basil	Furniture <i>Risotto Primavera</i> Risotto served with diced vegetables	Health Food <i>Vitello Scamorciello</i> Veal scaloppini topped with prosciutto, mozzarella in a brown sauce	Riding Gear <i>Debbie's Reins & Things</i> 332 Douglass St. (718) 787-5288
Myrtle <i>Myrtle Car & Limousine Service</i> 255 Myrtle St. (718) 230-9100	Furniture <i>Bistecca alla Griglia</i> Grilled sirloin steak. Additional \$5.95	Furniture <i>Strudel Di Melo</i> Apple strudel served with ice cream	Health Food <i>Gelato Di Ricotta</i> Ricotta ice cream	Real Estate <i>Brooklyn Bridge</i> 211 Court St. (718) 825-3700
Car Service	Furniture <i>Cocktail di Gambieri</i> Chilled shrimp cocktail. Additional 4.95	Furniture <i>Creama Di Piselli</i> Pea Soup	Meats <i>Haystack</i> 130 Clinton St. (718) 246-2510	Riding Gear <i>Debbie's Reins & Things</i> 332 Douglass St. (718) 787-5288
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THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

RED HOOK



American Stevedoring has a new lease on life.

Port to stay put

By Mike McLaughlin

The company operating the last active shipping docks in Brooklyn will remain on the Columbia Street waterfront for more years — a victory over city officials who had once sought to evict them to make room for housing, a major attraction and a beer garden.

American Stevedoring Incorporated, the shipping company running four piers, signed the 10-year lease with the Port Authority last week.

Such a deal seemed improbable before the Bloomberg administration dropped its effort last fall to cast off American Stevedoring from the piers, which are between Atlantic and Hamilton avenues, to create a luxury waterfront of housing, hotels and restaurants.

That idea eventually sank after opposition from elected officials, who criticized the mayor's half-baked cruise terminal on two piers that were previously operated by American Stevedoring for producing only a smattering of full-time jobs, rather than the hundreds Bloomberg had promised.

Port Authority officials, who had been instrumental in concluding the deal, said they had no role in the deal.

"As we grow and the need for jobs and freight increases, it is heartening to know that the port will be around for years to come," said Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights).

The company says it employs over 600 full-time employees in Brooklyn, but critics say the number is closer to 160.

DOWNTOWN

Comptroller: Let's sell the House of D

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn House of Detention is worth more to the city than life, according to Comptroller Bill Thompson, who urged Mayor Bloomberg last week to sell the old Atlantic Avenue jail rather than push forward with a plan to replace it.

In a letter sent to the mayor last Thursday, Thompson said the jailhouse site in Downtown Brooklyn would generate much-needed tax revenue if the city would drop its plan to double the capacity of the shuttered prison and ground floor retail.

Thompson, who was elected comptroller in 2005, did not give a dollar figure, however.

The comptroller's declaration comes shortly after the April 11 deadline for proposals on a \$240-million overhaul of the lockup, which last held defendants in 2002.

Thompson said an active jail, which takes up the full block bounded by Atlantic Avenue, Smith Street, Boerum Place and State Street, could hurt local business — a concept that is hardly a new one to residents of Brooklyn, who have argued in recent years that the jailhouse should be demolished.

But Corrections officials disagreed with Thompson and with neighbors, saying the jail is an "irreplaceable building [that] is physically connected to Brooklyn's main criminal courthouse."

"[To sell it] would jeopardize the city's



The Brooklyn House of Detention is slated to reopen.

long-term public safety," said agency spokesman Steve Morelo.

The city says it needs to reopen and double the capacity of the 11-story slammer to house the number of inmates in its sprawling Rikers Island facility in the Bronx and Brooklyn courts and their families.

Real estate analysts say the property is already very valuable, but not as a jail. "All the property adjacent to the House of Detention has been transformed," said Brian Leary, managing director of Massey

Kaufal. "It would be advantageous to transform it into something consistent with what's around it."

Locals are resigned to the reopening of the 750-inmate jail, but they haven't accepted the city plan to enlarge it.

The community is, however, willing to accept it opening at its current capacity," said Anne Simon, a Boerum Hill resident and local Democratic District Leader. "We're not crazy about it, but it's better than what we had."

Thompson's general call to sell the jail is just the latest effort to alter the plan. A far-more-ambitious city proposal last year, which sought to include a residential tower surrounding the jail, failed for lack of interest from developers. At that point, plans died quickly.

In the end, the expansion plan looks like a lock. Though unpopular with the locals, criminal justice experts are supportive of the city position that jails should not be relegated to remote locations like a prison island.

The agency's expansion plan looks like a lock.

"Having [prisons] shipped to Kings County courts from Rikers Island has not been a smooth operation," said Esmeralda Simmons, executive director of the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College.

could go to just hang out and relax," said Burns, who added that Emma and Pepita's kids are "busy doing their own thing" and have little interest in carrying on the family tra-

dition. Burns said the Sullivans remain "hopeful about reopening."

"They'll never sell it," he said.

The eatery's neon sign,

scrolled in classic 1950s style,

was a community landmark and

with the lights out, the neighborhood doesn't feel the same,

said Burns.

"It was the kinda place you

can go to just hang out and relax," said Burns, who added that Emma and Pepita's kids are "busy doing their own thing" and have little interest in carrying on the family tra-

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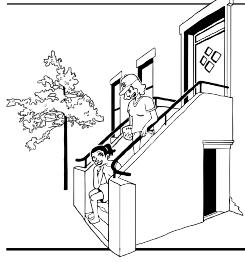
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THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

Psychic RV is right on target

Hey, the psychic RV is back!" my Reiki said, as we walked down Seventh Avenue last Sunday morning.

For several weeks last fall, we would see it parked across from Key Food, an RV with a sandwich board that announced that "Mrs. Dice" does palm reading, energy reading and other services, including Reiki.

Right next to the sandwich board was a folding beach chair. But we never saw anyone sit in it.

"Let's get out of here," I suggested this time. "You go first."

"Me?" he said. "Why do I have to go first?"

It was a fair question. Psychics are questionable enough,

but then to dream an RV that moves instead of vehicles...

Then again, this is Brooklyn, and my fiancé agreed (was forced) to go first. It took forever, but finally he sauntered back. "I'm going to live a very long time," he announced. "See that line across my hand? It goes all the way from one end to the other."

"And I will definitely marry my soul mate and have three children."

He has two from his first marriage and I have one — so that worked.

All for \$2.

My fiancé tapped on the door and was invited in. Mrs. Dice was in her 30s and was dressed all in beige. Her hair was pulled back into a smooth ponytail and she had a faint accent, which I could not place. She showed me where to sit at another small table, and then she sat down across from me.

"You will have four children," she told me, after studying my palm. "Two boys and two girls. You will be a good mother to her prediction," she said, "WELL, UP TO four children." Please

"You have been out of balance for the last three months," she told me. "Five of your chakras are closed. You should come to my office in Bay Ridge and have some Reiki."

She closed her eyes. I waited. Then she announced, "You are definitely destined to have a soul mate."

I thanked her and stepped back outside to find my fiancé.

So, is she really psychic? Maybe. After all, she was right about the soul mate — but, even more significantly, she always gets that same parking space right across from Key Food.

Wendy Ponte is a writer who lives in Park Slope.



BAY RIDGE

Tales from the crypts

By Ben Mussig
The Brooklyn Paper

Workers exhumed 211 bodies from the crypt of Bay Ridge's "Green Church" last week, moving the 108-year-old house of worship closer to its long-slated, but much-protected, demolition.

Citing the costs of ongoing renovation work, Pastor Roger L. Johnson, 60, stepped off on a plan to tear down the verdant Bay Ridge United Methodist Church to make room for a smaller church and condos on the corner of Fourth and Ovington avenues.

Before demolition can begin, the church needed to relocate the remains of its 19th-century members, so the pastor reluctantly resorted to a crypt since 1901.

Workers donned gloves, carefully placing the remains in steel vaults before moving them to Cypress Hills Cemetery, where "they will be buried alongside other Methodists," Erickson said.

Opponents of the church's demolition saw the April 21 disinterment as a bad omen.

"Once you've moved the bodies, the next step is bringing the church down," said Victoria Hoffman of the Committee to Save the Bay Ridge Methodist Church, which has been having bi-monthly rallies to build community support against tearing down the historic green stone building.



Workers started digging up coffins at the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church last Thursday so the fabled "Green Church" can be torn down to make room for condos. The remains were moved to a cemetery in Queens.

wants the landmark-worthy church turned into a residential development," he said.

But Erickson, the pastor, is open to thinking about what's best for the church.

Community members (D-Bay Ridge) called the exhumation "catastrophic."

"It's a sad day for all those ancestors, whose bodies were at rest, to be uprooted,

disturbing their eternal peace in the name

of residential development," he said.

But Erickson is open to thinking about what's best for the church.

That said, he is not giving up.

Golden spokesman John Quagliano said the pain would not only be felt by shoppers.

"The store supported our Halloween walk and our summer concert series," he said.

Bay Ridge Key Food to close

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Shoppers in the southern part of Bay Ridge will be left with just one supermarket thanks to the imminent closure of the Key Food on Third Avenue.

<http://Check out our video coverage at BrooklynPaper.com>

"They were only

two supermarkets on this end of the neighborhood. The ones

at Food Town [on 90th Street] will be really long!"

A store manager, who was

ironically standing in front of

residential development," he said.

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Morning mayhem at Slope diner

78TH PRECINCT Park Slope

Two women were shot two other women in an early morning, alcohol-induced, knock-down, drag-out brawl at a popular 24-hour diner on Fifth Avenue on April 27.

Two women were injured and two others arrested for assault in the incident, which began at around 4:15 a.m.

"Basically, it was a drunken cheeseburger deluxe," said one 78th Precinct officer.

According to police, two women were eating at the diner, which is between Ninth and 10th streets, when two others entered after a night of clubbing.

One of the newcomers was drunk, and at some point, she picked up a bottle and threw it at one of the victims.

This apparently prompted her partner to pick up a fork and stab the other victim about the head and face.

The 25- and 44-year-old women were arrested.

Ka-ching!

Like a movie, Willis Sutton, a man-totting thief knew where the money was on April 25, hitting up a man he left a Ninth Street check-cashing store on at 2:55 a.m.

The 30-year-old victim had cashed his check at the busier end of Fifth Avenue, at the busy corner of Fourth Avenue, at around 4:15 p.m. But the perp followed the two blocks east, to the much more desolate corner of Second and Avenue, where he pulled his black revolver and said, "Give me your money."

After the victim refused, the still-warm \$38, the perp hopped on a motorcycle and sped off by an accomplice and sped off.

Easy pickings

They are, folks! Four more reasons why you should always keep your wallet in your pocket:

• On April 21, a hospital worker told police that she put her wallet on her Sixth Avenue bus pass, but when she returned, the billfold was missing a credit card, and \$500 in change had been taken.

• On April 23, a 30-year-old woman lounging in Prospect Park placed her wallet "on the grass" at around 8:30 p.m. near the intersection of 34th and 35th streets, hours later, the wallet, which contained \$200 and assault cards, was gone. She also lost her cell-phone.

• A worker at a Union Street nail salon slipped off the table at the 20th Street entrance to the salon, which is between Sixth and Seventh avenues, the wallet was gone — and so were the \$300 and various cards.

• A quick-moving thief grabbed a 36-year-old woman's wallet after she left it on the table of a Union Avenue nail salon. When she returned to the salon, which is between Sixth and Seventh avenues, the wallet was gone — and so were the \$300 and various cards.

Too young

A Parade girl who should have no experience with crime may have been a pickpocket at easy mark.

The 10-year-old's mother told cops that her daughter was on the way to MS 51 on Sixth Avenue, but by the time she got to the bus stop between Fourth and Fifth streets, someone had stolen her cellphone.

Compuborg

A thief broke into a Ninth Street apartment on April 21 and got away with electronics worth about \$3,500.

The 35-year-old tenant of the

POLICE BLOTTER

apartment, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues, told cops that she went to the post office at 1 p.m. and returned one hour later to find that her laptop and digital camera were gone.

Road enraged

At least one car and two bikes were stolen off Park Slope streets last week:

• A 19-year-old Yamaha-chopper was stolen off Warren Street sometime after 1 a.m. on April 26. The 24-year-old owner told cops he'd parked it between Fourth and Fifth avenues. He'd just had a helmet and a footbal.

• A book-lover who locked his bike to a stand in front of the Brooklyn Public Library on Union Street between Grand Army Plaza and April 24, left the building to find that his Trek mountain bike had been taken.

Second graders that day were picking up books and the thief, who had a 100-page book, was gone.

• A 1999 Mercury Sable was taken off a stand on Ninth Street between Second and Third avenues at around 3 p.m. on April 22 after the owner left the keys in the ignition.

— **Gerth Kuntzman**

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights—DUMBO
Boerum Hill—DUMBO

Gunning for him

Two men robbed another man at gunpoint on Lafayette April 22.

The victim noticed two men behind him on Joralemon Street at around 4:15 p.m. But when he reached the corner of Joralemon and Lafayette, he pulled his black revolver and told him to empty his pockets.

After the man gave up \$60, his cellphone and various credit cards, the robbers fled towards Atlantic Avenue.

Lovely Sidney

Three men roughed up a woman on State Street on April 26 before she fled.

The hoodlums threw her against a car, between Sidney Place and Clinton Street, and held her to the street at 11:30 p.m. before they fled.

The victim noticed two men behind him on Joralemon Street at around 4:15 p.m. But when he reached the corner of Joralemon and Lafayette, he pulled his black revolver and told him to empty his pockets.

Tough guy

A man fended off would-be muggers on State Street on April 23 at around 7 p.m., leaving her at the bus stop between Clinton and Atlantic.

The hoodlums tried to steal the 70-year-old man's backpack by hitting him, but weren't able to pry it loose, throwing it to give up a flip-top phone—handy to the crooks, because it had a knife and stab him in the chest, which did not cause serious injuries.

Wallet gone

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ATLANTIC YARDS

THE SWEETHEART DEAL

City let Ratner off the hook

Fewer affordable units was OK'd in September

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Bruce Ratner downsized Atlantic Yards — and it turns out that the city gave him the green light to do so.

A never-released funding agreement reveals that the city let the Atlantic Yards developer off the hook for the down-sizing he announced last month. Yet will still be building him with \$205 million in direct city subsidies.

The agreement, signed last September but only released this month by the Atlantic Yards Report, a Web site to scale back the \$4-billion arena, apartment and office project and just the publicly financed basketball arena and two smaller residential towers by 2020, four years later and thousands of units of affordable housing less than the 16-tower full moon that Ratner had originally proposed in December 2006.

If he manages to build the reduced number of units within that stretched-out timetable, he could avoid any penalties.

But the new documents also reveal that taxpayers are spending \$100 million to pay back Ratner for his generous buyouts of tenanted units in the arena footprint (see story at right).

The newly released documents reveal that city officials and Ratner are already negotiating to scale back the arena project long before Ratner told The New York Times last month that he'd canned the sig-

nature Miss Brooklyn tower because he lacked an anchor tenant and that he had no timetable for building Phase II of the project, which includes the vast majority of the below-market-rate housing units and publicly accessible open space.

According to Ratner, the project now consists of the three newly completed basket-ball arena and two or three smaller towers around it.

The result would be just hundreds of units of below-market-rate housing, not the 2,250 units that Ratner promised in 2004 — and that his lawmakers, including those who once supported the project — seeing red.

"Whether you or the original [developer] were right or wrong, I think it was a bad deal — the project that he agreed to is not being built," said Council-

man David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), who will join colleagues Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) and Diana Rosario (D-Park Slope) at a rally on Saturday to call for a moratorium on demolition until Atlantic Yards is renegotiated.

Forest City Ratner did not respond to a request for comment.

Meanwhile, a group of residents of the footprint sued the Empire State Development

Corporation yet again, claiming that any agreement that gives Ratner more than 10 years to build the affordable units violates the city's zoning laws. "If ESDC or [Forest City Ratner] has no intent to materially complete Phase II of the project within 10 years ... Phase II will be demolished as a matter of law," said the lawsuit, which was filed in state Supreme Court on Wednesday.

"Ratner has abandoned most of the project and that has consequences under eminent domain laws," said the plaintiff's lawyer, Michael J. Kahan. "The law gives a condemner the right to repurchase its property if the site has been abandoned."

A spokeswoman for ESDC declined to comment, saying the agency officials "have not yet had the opportunity to review the pleadings."

Tax dollars paid for this mess

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Bruce Ratner was called generous when he bought out tenants in the footprint of his proposed basketball arena in 2004 — but he could afford to be because he was paying with taxpayer money.

According to the just-released funding agreement between the city and Forest City Ratner the \$100 million for "land acquisition" that the city set aside in 2006 will reimburse the developer for the private land it bought to assemble the project's superblock.

That includes deals that made millions out of condo owners who agreed to sell to Ratner while the threat of eminent domain loomed.

The funding agreement was obtained by the Atlantic Yards Report, a Web site, which acquired it through a Freedom of Information Act request.

"It is unconscionable and indefensible that the city is giving \$100 million of taxpayers' money to pay for Ratner's strong-arm real-estate deals," said Gabe Green, the spokesman for Assemblyman Dov Hikind (Brooklyn), who was the one resident of 636 Pacific St. who did not take Ratner's buyout.

When the city announced its \$100-million deal-sweeterener in 2006, it was listed on budget documents as "land acquisition."



The city paid Bruce Ratner \$100 million to buy out homeowners living within the footprint of his Atlantic Yards arena superblock.

Irony: 'Union' divides neighborhood

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A thriving bar and concert venue in Park Slope is a victim of the city's success, or rather, its neighbors say — they're the victims of the neighborhood's success.

Union Hall has catapulted into the upper ranks of Brooklyn's night spots. It opened on Union Street in July, 2006, but has been at the center of controversy for just as long, with irate locals complaining that noise from the bar keeps them up the wee hours.

The bar's owners will face their many critics on May 7, when Community Board 6 holds a hearing about renewing the bar's soon-to-expire liquor license.

"We've been addressing these concerns," said Jim Caron, co-owner of the bar, adding, "we have a lot of information about what we've been doing and we're going to present it at the meeting." He declined to comment further.

But neighbors on Union Street and around the corner on busy Fifth Avenue in Park Slope say the street's flow of revelers in and out of the crowded space creates a nightly disruption especially when popular live music



Union Hall on Union Street at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope is again under fire, this time the crowds it attracts late into the night.

eat acts are booked in the basement concert space.

"The problem is you have a hugely popular bar," said Jon Crow, president of the Union Street Block Association. "As groups leave, they're still in bar mode, yelling up and down the street."

The upcoming hearing is the culmination of two years of complaints that have drawn in the 78th Precinct, the community board and elected officials to mediate between Union Hall's owners and its rankled neighbors.

Out of those meetings have come several conciliatory gestures from the bar, previously a long-closed kitchen cabinet shop. Union Hall now closes its backyard patio at 10 pm on weekends and 11 on the weekends, and there are signs on the doors imploring patrons to be courteous.

People who have relaxed in the evening in Union Hall's living-room-style bar, which is lined with bookshelves, might be surprised by its late-night reputation.

"The bar is Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde kind of there," said David Smith, who says noise reaches him in his Fifth Avenue apartment.

"It's very sedate on Tuesdays at 6:30 in the evening, but 20 to 30 people at 2:30 in the morning you don't want to be there."

Defenders of Union Hall are sympathetic, but say the critics have exaggerated the extent of the noise.

"What the critics are saying is willfully untrue," said Eugene Mirman, a regular patron and comedian performing at the bar. "People don't leave here at 5 am shouting, seven nights a week."

"And remember something," he added. "This is New York City. There is going to be a bar."

The battle between bars and neighbors is perhaps as old as drinking itself, but there has

been an intensification of conflicts since New York City banned smoking indoors in 2003 and with the proliferation of nightife in previously residential corners of Brooklyn.

The Community Board 6 vote, only advisory, and Union Hall fans recognize the odds are slim that the State Liquor Authority would deny the grant, a renewed attempt to resolve the noise controversy will push the community board to be more reluctant to support new bars on relatively quiet blocks.

"It's going to be just weighed in a similar context," voting to support a Carroll Gardens restaurateur and bar owner who wanted to open a raw bar in Carroll Gardens, the Hoy Street. The board voted overwhelmingly in favor of the barman, Jim Mamary, despite substantial opposition on Hoy Street.

Community Board 6 hearing on Union Hall's liquor license will be on Thursday May 7 at 6 pm in the board's offices (250 Baltic St., between Court and Clinton streets). Call (718) 643-3207 for info.

Rep. Towns's opponent from 'Real World'

Challenger Kevin Powell starred in the original reality TV show

By Ben Müessig
The Brooklyn Paper

It's the MTV kid versus the golden olive for Congress.

Forty-two-year-old hip-hop writer and MTV "Real World" alum Kevin Powell is facing a second run against 13-term incumbent Rep. Ed Towns (D-Carnaie).

And this time, Towns, who won just 47 percent of the vote in a three-way contest in 2006, says he won't underestimate his competitor.

"I made a mistake a couple of years ago when I didn't take a candidate seriously," said Towns, speaking of a race that faced Powell and Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Fort Greene).

Powell had also been in the race early, but dropped out.

For all that, taking Powell seriously, Towns' first comments on his opponent indicated that he's doing just the opposite.

"I don't know this Kevin Powell and I know nothing that he's said," he said.

Powell declared his candidacy on April 27 at a crowded fundraiser at a

Fort Greene soul food restaurant, The Five Spot.

"I know the story of David and Goliath, and I love the story of Kevin," Powell said.

Comparing the outsider candidate with the Biblical underdog might be an understatement considering Towns's deep pockets.

By the beginning of March, Powell had raised \$710,444 — and spent nearly \$500,000 on the campaign already.

Powell — whose latest records are from the end of 2007 — raised a \$8,825 by comparison, but he's still in the race.

"I'm going to be the first person from the hip-hop generation to make it to Congress," he said.

Local political experts aren't so sure of that.

"Town and Green were both strong candidates," one Brooklyn politico said. "Both of them were elected officials. Both of them ran for office and won. Both of them were proven fundraisers — you can't say anything about that."

Barron — who still believes he would have won in 2006 had Green not split the anti-Towns vote — has

denounced Powell.

"I'm used to being able to say 'Power to the people,'" the former Black Panther said. "But now I can say 'Power to Kevin Powell.'

At the April 27 fundraiser, Powell didn't waste much time before digging into Towns's record, calling him out for missing nearly 1,000 votes since he first took office in 2001.

He spent the rest of the evening talking to constituents about affordable rents, the mortgage crisis — alongside more personal critiques.

"He spends his time in Florida that's not here in Brooklyn, New York at this point," Powell said.

Days after the criticism from Powell, Towns announced that he will host a May 3 town hall meeting on mandatory lead testing.

Still, Towns dismissed Powell's attack on his record by going negative against the candidate.

"He says he's an organizer," Towns said of Powell. "He says he's for change because Obama says he's for change."

Former MTV "Real World" star Kevin Powell announced his second run for Congress this week, setting up another fight against longtime Rep. Ed Towns.

Decision '08

By Ben Müessig
The Brooklyn Paper

It's the MTV kid versus the golden olive for Congress.

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Grand Theft Auto comes to Bklyn



MUESSIG'S MUSINGS

By Ben Müessig

So when I picked up the joystick, I was sure I'd know my way around the game well enough to bring my character to the best dumpling house in Sunset Park and the hippest bar in Bushwick.

The Brooklyn of GHV — it's actually called "Broker" in the game — is set up with many may I know my way around the American city which in this case, is a dream about stripers and guns) in a thinly veiled Big Apple called "Liberation."

But for this Brooklynite, Grand Theft Auto IV, the hyper-violent video game set in a fictionalized New York has one major flaw — there's not enough Brooklyn in it.

The graphic game follows an unscrupulous broker as he pursues the American dream which in this case, is a dream about stripers and guns) in a thinly veiled Big Apple called "Liberation."

But for every landmark that the game's designers created (photocrealist precision, I must say), entire neighborhoods morphed, shrank and became mostly unrecognizable.

It took me a few hours of furious gameplay to find a single block that might or might not constitute Bay Ridge (though to



A brownstone-lined, Brooklyn-style street in Grand Theft Auto IV.

the designers' credit, that block did have illegal cub carts).

As I drove around, Brooklyn Heights appeared as nothing more than a strip of townhouses bordering the Promenade.

The game also merges DUMBO, the Navy Yard and Red Hook — as a single neighborhood, though it attempts to recreate my morning commute in a stolen police car.

Prospect Park is no bigger than Fort Greene Park and much to Smartpond's dismay, Park Slope borders both the Fulton Mall and Coney Island's public housing.

But for every neighborhood included in the game, a handful of families are left out.

Where are Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Cobble Hill, Carroll Hill, and others?

Brooklyn is nothing without its neighborhoods and with all of Grand Theft Auto's omissions, my character might as well be born without committing senseless acts of violence or

murder.

That's not to say that the new game isn't fun — it very well might be the best videogame I've ever played.

But Brooklynites shouldn't expect to know their way around.

Not again!

Dean St. is PO'd at being peed on

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

It's been a bad week and one car on a Boerum Hill block were doused with large quantities of human waste again this week — the latest examples of a recurring form of moist vandalism on Dean Street.

Was this the second straight week that the block was showered. Last Sunday, someone left a two-liter container filled with urine and syringes in front of one house and soaked the bed of a pickup truck — both of which were targeted in the latest attack.

"This is getting out of control," said Kevin McGowan, the truck owner, who has been victimized at least four times.

The trouble started flowing on the day of the neighborhood block party last September, when neighbors emerged from their houses between Bond and Nevins streets to an overpowered stench. Some of the waste was in a trash can, others in a truck.

Since then, the block has been infested in the closets of leaky villains who drench their street with apparent impunity.

"I hope there's some scrutiny and increased police presence," said Cynthia Hammond, whose husband has encountered the evidence the last two weeks. "It's a health issue and it's a quality of life issue."

The 84th Precinct did not respond to several calls for comment, and residents say they have not been encouraged by the station's attitude towards their gripes, though officers have been to the scene twice in the last two weeks.

Residents say cops are showing up because of that two-litter, urine-filled jig.

"We were able to establish what we're been saying — that someone has been pouring urine on cars on our block," Joe Samulski, Hammond's husband, told The Brooklyn Paper.

OUR OPINION

A fight worth having

On Thursday night, Community Board 6 will hold a hearing on whether to allow a liquor permit to renew for the historic Union Hall, a bar in Park Slope called Union Hall (previously mentioned before).

The battle over Union Hall — with angry neighbors complaining that the popular nightspot has created a nuisance — is just the latest clash that we see repeated throughout popular Brooklyn neighborhoods between a local bar owner's desire to serve drinks and book bands and area residents who say that doing so violates their neighborhood's peace and quiet.

Earlier this year, a similar fight broke out in Carroll Gardens after the owner of the Black Mountain Wine Bar at the corner of



Union and Hoyt streets announced that he wanted to open an oyster bar around the corner on Hoyt Street.

Just as in the current Union Hall case, neighbors claimed that the bar is a menace to the community. But what's "community"? At Union Hall, the book-lined front room, bocce courts, patio area, \$3 happy hour drafts and basement concert venue has become a true neighborhood destination. And to think, a year and a half ago, it was a shuttered kitchen cabinet store.

While the State Liquor Authority has said that CB6 won't influence it one way or the other, the hearing is vital given its timing.

More and more, Brooklyn neighborhoods are establishing their own nightlife scenes so that residents no longer have to rely on Manhattan for their entertainment. To revitalize downtown commercial spaces, it's important that local business owners be able to connect with their neighbors without leaving the neighborhood.

That said, all this after-hours activity can get out of hand, as our story on page 5 reports. And in such cases, community boards can play an important role in getting all the aggrieved parties together so such things can be worked out — as a neighborhood.

Most of us want lively commercial strips in our neighborhoods, but we also want a reasonable amount of peace and quiet.

Such needs are not necessarily incompatible — which is why Thursday's community board hearing is so important.

LETTERS

City: We'll get Coney Island without eminent domain

To the editor,

The city's position has consistently been that there would be no eminent domain involved in the Coney Island plan. "City to Take Coney Island Plan" (City 26). But the Brooklyn paper got it wrong.

In the story, I was quoted as saying that "we're going to go forward with this plan," but that was never the case. We were not planning to proceed with remapping nine acres of Coney Island as parkland. I was not referring to eminent domain.

We are sure that you would want to clarify the city's position for your readers which as stated above, has not changed.

Marylyn Wils
The writer is executive vice president of the Economic Development Corporation.
Editor's note: Wils is correct; our article should have been clearer that she did not specifically say that the city would resort to eminent domain. That said, Wils said that the city would

move ahead with its Coney Island plan whether or not local landowners sell their property or not. We apologize for any confusion.

Dirty Vito

To the editor,
Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) has tapped into some of the dirtiest money with regards to Dick Cheney's Cheney stumps for Vito.

Cheney is bad enough, the rest of the

fundraiser, David H. Koch, owns Koch Industries, the largest privately held company in the United States, which has a very serious record as a major polluter. During the Clinton Administration, they were warned by a landmark EPA study of 500 companies.

They were also fined an additional \$8 million for discharging oil into streams in

Minnesota.
Vito Fossella has been a loyal rubber-stamp manager, doing little in the way of advocating and not a check on executive branch power that we expect from Congress. He supports no-bid government contracts, entitlements and tax exemptions for multi-billion dollar projects like Koch Industries, but destroys the rights of individuals like Social Security and Medicaid.

What else can you expect from someone so beholden to those interests?

George Rosquist, Staten Island

Brooklyn is America
To the editor,

As a former Brooklynite, I still read The Brooklyn Paper every week. But lately, it seems that I could be reading any paper in the country. A new IKEA? A Vegas-sized Xanadu on Coney Island? Everything is so generic, so homogenized... so... American.

Soon Cindy Adams will no longer be able to say "Only in New York, only in New York."

The development going on in my new hometown is far less generic. Perhaps everyone is so focused on the Atlantic Yards project that they're not seeing what else is going on around them.

Lawrence Goodman, Providence, RI

CORRECTION

A story last week incorrectly reported the day of Saturday's rally against Atlantic Yards. The rally will be 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, at 752 Pacific St., between Carlton and Vanderbilt Avenues. Call Daniel Goldstein of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn at (917) 701-3056 for information.

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EOP

ALL DRAWN OUT



that all could participate!

To the editor,

We are paying the price for becoming a "poor man's place" in which to live. I lament the loss of our "neighborhood" when

neighbors were friendly, the kids played together, the street fairs were fun with pony

sions of fossil fuel power plants are extremely rare. Even that small risk could be mitigated by proper design and reliable venting, exhaust, and monitoring systems and reinforced concrete design, making the park safe.

4. The city needs additional generating facilities and at this location, adjusting a river and close to electrical distribution facilities is work well for a generating plant.

5. The power plant could be built immediately by a private operator, at no cost to the city.

Since the site will be a park at ground level, and will not affect the park, this site should be looked at again for its intended purpose, namely to generate electricity.

Donald Weston, Brooklyn Heights

The writer is chair of the urban design committee for the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Send a letter

By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPaper.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number. Only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter. Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

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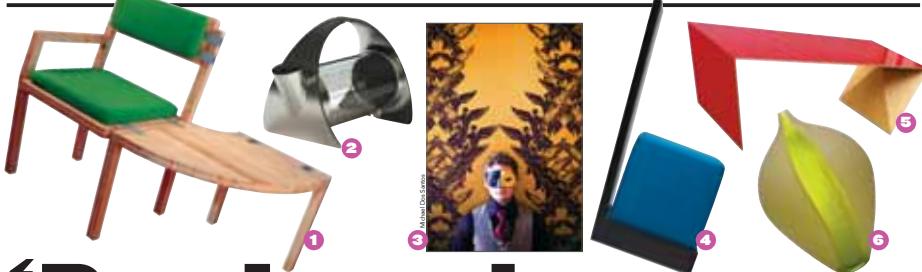
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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 3, 2008



'Designs' on you

Home decor extravaganza to lure editors, shoppers to DUMBO

By Adam Rathé

The Brooklyn Paper

Finding a place to live is never easy, but this summer Friday, furnishing your home with style and originality can be a cinch. This year's edition of BKLYN Designs, the annual bazaar of avant-garde furniture and housewares, will convene 70 editors, buyers and design and manufacture goods in the borough.

The three-day event, the biggest in its six-year history, opens on Friday, May 9, and will sprawl over four DUMBO locations — St. Ann's Warehouse, The Tobacco Warehouse, Smack Mellon art gallery and the DUMBO Arts Center.

There will be 28 brand new exhibitors, and that's a number for us," said organizer Karen Auster. "The great thing about BKLYN Designs is that some of these small companies launch with us and end up with so

many orders that they outgrow it. We hope for that. We want great success for them."

Auster's plan seems to be working. She cited designs like DUMBO-based City Joinery, which she said is one of [its] sales at BKLYN Designs every year.

Another addition to this year's lineup is a bigger-than-ever showing from "green" designers. Ultra Design is a rock-and-roll firm specializing in furniture made from recycled and repurposed materials, known for launching new products at BKLYN Designs each year.

and it's just one of 18 eco-friendly exhibitors.

"It's great [for buyers] to be able to meet the designers and to then explore their work and the significance of their designs," said Auster.

Ushua's Bill Hilgerdon. "Focus on sustainability has been big for the past few years, and it's been great for designers to be able to explain to clients why it's good, how we are able to be

sustainable and why you should buy into that." We're definitely into promoting Brooklyn," he added. "We've stuck with BKLYN Designs because we feel like it's a good place for us to showcase our work every year."

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Made in Brooklyn: Among the companies and designers participating in BKLYN Designs, May 9-11 in DUMBO, are (1) Ecosystems, (2) Joey Roth, (3) Jill Malek, (4) Vexell, (5) Takeshi Miyakawa Design and (6) furthredesign.

organized a dozen events — ranging from an opening-night, keynote speech from designer Sami Hayek (brother of actress Salma) to a Mother's Day craft workshop — to keep the design-savvy attendees educated and entertained.

Although New York hosts a number of design events, including the International Art + Design Fair in October, BKLYN Designs has the distinction of being on the cutting edge of what is being shown.

"I have a design or manufacturer in Brooklyn who is eligible," said Auster. "We have applications coming from all over the country, but you really have to be a Brooklyn designer. I know someone who is a designer from the Bronx, but to the borough is not part of BKLYN Designs."

Hilgerdon added, "It has the feeling of a fresh group, and people expect to see new stuff." And when BKLYN Designs rolls into DUMBO, that's exactly what they'll get.



Hats off to BBG: As part of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's cherry blossom festival this weekend, the Japanese Folk Dance Institute presents the "Hanagasa Odori" (Flower Dance) at 2:30 pm on May 3 and the "Minbu" (flower dance) at 3:30 pm on May 4.

'Sakura' modern

Pop stars, DJs & more at blossom festival

By Lisa J. Curtis

Brooklyn Editor

While the Japanese tradition of

celebrating cherry blossoms might be ancient, this year's edition of "Sakura Matsuri" at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden features a slate of utterly contemporary music, theater, fine art and more.

The two-day cherry blossom festival, which kicks off Saturday at the Prospect Heights garden this weekend, is hoping to attract even more visitors with a infusion of programs geared to a new generation of Japanophiles.

Visitors will find the usual hits on the schedule — such as demonstra-

tions of "ikebana" (flower arranging), a tea ceremony, and lots of classic Japanese dancing — but also augmented by the installation of the new "Sakura J-Lounge" featuring four DJs — with four distinct styles performing on different days and times — in the Osborne Garden.

See CHERRY on page 9

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MUSIC



Photo by Mark Lennihan

Fest turns 30

It's been said that you can't trust anyone over 30, but "Celebrate Brooklyn," the Park Slope summer music festival that reaches that milestone this year, still has impeccable taste.

"When you look at the lineup, you'll realize that we put an enormous effort into making sure the 30th year is one that has tremendous quality and variety of performances," said Jack Walsh, the festival's director. "There are 80 artists from 18 countries; the mix is pretty amazing."

"Walk on By" singer and former voice of *Char's on "Sex Park"* **Isaac Hayes** will kick off the summer-long series on June 12 with a free concert, followed by a \$300-plus-ticket gala to benefit the series. Running through Aug. 9, "Celebrate Brooklyn" will have five music, dance, theater and film performances in what Walsh called the largest outdoor screen in New York City.

Of course, a performing arts series as monumental as Celebrate Brooklyn can't offer all of those nights of free entertainment without a little help from their friends. Big-name bands like **Spinal Tap** are playing benefit concerts — only events for the benefit of the gala, that aren't free — and bringing their nightclubs-packing sounds to the band shell in Prospect Park. Canadian indie songstress **Feist**, whose song "1234" topped the U.S. chart last year, will headline the festival's Aug. 10 Texas-themed night, and darlings Spoon, whose record "Ga Ga Ga Ga" landed the band on late night shows and soundtracks all year long, will perform on July 15.

Tickets are already on sale for these shows.

Whether it's a rock concert or a performance by a classical ensemble, the music at Celebrate Brooklyn is as much a part of summer as iced coffee on a backyard barbecue, and that's the biggest attraction there is.

"I'm a Park Slope resident and I always see friends and neighbors there," said Walsh. "No matter where you are, you're going to see a sense of it."

BRIC Arts Media (Bklyn presents Celebrate Brooklyn from June 12 through Aug. 9 at the Prospect Park band shell (Ninth Street and Prospect Park West in Park Slope). Most events are free. For information, a full schedule of gala tickets, call (718) 855-7888 or visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org. For Spoon tickets (\$32.50) and Feist tickets (\$35), visit www.ticketmaster.com — Adam Rathé

BOOKS

Hodg-podge

Lock up your history books! On Tuesday, May 6, author Park Slope and "Daily Show" contributor John Hodgman will read from his new book, "More Information Than You Require," a collection of fake news, a benefit for the NEA.

"I will be speaking about the long and close relationship between Thomas Jefferson and the MoM," said the Canadian humorist, whose last book included a list entitled "Nine U.S. Presidents Who Had Hooks for Hands."

Hodgman, who is widely recognized as the actor portraying the title PC in a series of New York commercials, will be joined by novelist Darin Strauss ("More Than It Hurts"), comic Patrick Borrelli and perhaps some "special guests" for the evening, which will benefit the school's library collection.

Hodgman, who has a child enrolled at the school, enjoyed the reading. "Apart from the delight of fiction, comedy and fake trivia, this is a good cause for people to take part in."

"Readings on the Fourth Floor" will take place at 7:30 pm on May 6 at P5 107 (13th Street and Eighth Avenue in Park Slope). \$15. For information, visit www.p5107.org.

— Adam Rathé

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Mother's Day FREE Concert at Green-Wood's Historic Chapel 2:30-4:00pm:

Following the tour, the ISO Symphony (the flagship ensemble of the InterSchool Orchestras of New York), Jonathan

Strasser, music director, will present a special FREE outdoor concert at Green-Wood's Historic Chapel featuring selections by George Gershwin, Jonah Strauss, Jr. and Green-Wood's own Leonard Bernstein, among others.

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Growing Gowanus

Ever wonder how the letters in alphabet soup are made? Now the country they are created with extension dies made at Maldari & Company (pictured) in Gowanus.

"Any food that comes out in a shape, they must have made the die," said artist MacKellar, creator of "Gowanus Transformations," an exhibit opening May 8 at the Brooklyn Historical Society in Brooklyn Heights.

"It's about those working there," said MacKellar. "What they are doing and how it effects them."

Maldari & Company is the oldest of the 11 unique businesses featured in this show, which celebrates 150 years of manufacturing in the canal-side neighborhood.

"We were aware there was a lot of industry in Gowanus, and we were curious [about] what was going on behind closed doors," said MacKellar. "It seemed appro-

priate [now], since there is so much talk about development in the area."

Other featured companies include Ready-Mix Concrete Plant, which makes concrete for construction at the World Trade Center, and 12th & M, which is a full-service special effects shop serving the city's TV and theater community.

"They have a wide range of skills and an amazing amount of — for lack of a better word — 'stuff,' which enables them to do a lot of different things for the performance community, from renting weaponry to blowing up cars, to fog, rain, snow and wind," said MacKellar.

"Gowanus Transformations" runs May 8 through Aug. 1 at the Brooklyn Historical Society (129 Prospect St. at Clinton Street) in Brooklyn Heights. For information, call (718) 222-4111 or visit www.brooklynhistory.org.

— Linnéa Covington

CHERRY...

Continued from page 7

"As you walk in from the Eastern Parkway entrance, you'll see we've created this magical, secret Japanese garden," said Anita Jacobs, who curates the programs for "Sakura Matsuri."

"My intention is that as you walk in, you'll hear great music. In past years, if you entered on Eastern Parkway, you used to have to walk a ways to get a taste of the festival."

Jacobs has enlisted DJs from New York and beyond to spin in her J-Pop lounge, while the rest of the crowd will be DJ2thinner, who has radio show out of Boston," said Jacobs. "He will be spinning anime-themed J-Pop and J-Pop [on May 4 at 3:30 pm]."

The festival will tap into "manga" mania with a presentation and book signing by "Manga for Dummies" creator Ken-jiro Okabayashi on both days. Jacobs said that in the past, his demonstrations have been packed with people from "graphic designers to first readers who want to learn how to draw comic book art."

"Both 'anime' and 'manga' have exploded in Japan and really hit this country like crazy," said Jacobs. "I call it the 'geisha' of manga. It's a very popular culture to 'manga'; pre-teen and young adult audiences want to learn everything about Japanese culture — they want to go to a traditional tea ceremony."

While Jacobs' director of public programs has been selecting the entertainment for the festival for years, even she has been blown away by her success. J-pop band ZAN, which comes from Japan to play 2008, is returning this year. "What I love about them is that they're using traditional instruments in a modern way," said Jacobs, who was startled by the ardor of their fans last year. "Suddenly I hear screaming teenagers and kids are cry-



Petal to the metal: This year's cherry blossom festival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden includes DJ spinning J-Pop and a performance by Japanese band ZAN.

ing like it was a Beatles concert. When they came off the stage, we had to bring in extra security because people were trying to rip their clothes off!" So of course ZAN wants to play Brooklyn again, and they'll take the Cherry Esplanade stage at 4 pm on Saturday.

In addition to this cutting-edge talent, there come off the stage, we had to bring in extra security because people were trying to rip their clothes off!" So of course ZAN wants to play Brooklyn again, and they'll take the Cherry Esplanade stage at 4 pm on Saturday.

— Linnéa Covington

BROOKLYN Bites JAPANESE RESTAURANTS

Blue Ribbon Sushi

278 Fifth Ave, at First Street in Park Slope, (718) 840-0408. MC, Visa, AmEx, Diners, American Express (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa). Average price per person: \$45.

If it's late and you're craving a Japanese meal, Blue Ribbon Sushi, which opened in 2001, is the place to go.

Blue Ribbon Sushi, which has the same name in Manhattan, and Blue Ribbon Bakery) Try executive chef and owner, Michael Wilson's, a tasty treat made with steamed lobster, Japanese mint and caviar, which is served with a perfectly melt-in-your-mouth fish from the Atlantic and Pacific, as well as a huge sake list. Open daily for dinner only, and Sundays.

Kiku

177 Fifth Ave, at Berkeley Street in Park Slope, (718) 438-3364 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$14-\$20.

Open since September 2004, Kiku is a tranquil sushi restaurant that offers a lunch special (\$7 to \$9) that includes a miso soup or a green salad with ginger dressing, followed by two kinds of shrimp, scallops, and a pile of crisp, salty "edamame" (fresh soybeans in the pod). For dinner, owner-chef Ken Lau offers classic plates of Japanese sushi, as well as lobster-tuna dumplings and Chilean sea bass with miso glaze. Lunch and dinner served from 2 pm to 12:30 am.

Kotobuki

192 Columbia St, at Sackett Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-7980, www.kotobuki-bistro.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$14-\$20.

Kotobuki Japanese bistro, which opened since October 2004, offers a menu that's "a fusion of Japanese and American culture," as a three-course meal that ends with a dish of ice cream. Especially popular in the summer is the "Rocky Mountain volcano roll," a delicacy filled with spicy crab and shrimp and served with a spicy miso soup. Kotobuki's spicy seafood soup: a bowl of scallops, shrimp, octopus and scallops with miso and ginger. Open Mondays through Fridays for lunch and dinner, and weekends from 2 pm to 12:30 am.

Hibino

333 Henry St, at Pacific Street in Greenpoint, (718) 240-8525. MC, Visa, AmEx, Disc, American Express (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$12-\$14. *

Hibino, which opened its doors in

March 2007, takes Japanese comfort food to a new level. Manager Hinata Sato said customers flock to chef Masaru Sato's "tuna tokyo," broiled salmon in a miso sauce, and an array of Kyoto-style dumplings.

If it's late, and you're craving a Japanese meal, Blue Ribbon Sushi, which opened in 2001, is the place to go.

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Atlantic and Pacific, as well as a

huge sake list. Open daily for dinner

only, and Sundays.

— Linnéa Covington

* Full review available at www.BROOKLYNPAPER.COM

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express; Disc=Discover Card; MC=MasterCard; Visa=Visa Card

Source: OpenTable.com

Photo: Michael Wilson

Photo: Michael Wilson

tuna and avocado, or the "Iron Chef maki," stuffed with tempura shrimp and avocado, and topped with a miso glaze. For dessert, have a bowl of green tea, red bean or strawberry ice cream.

At 4 pm on Saturday, there is something for everyone. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Sushi Okdo

497 Myrtle Ave, at Hall Street in Clinton Hill, (718) 789-1373. (MC, Visa) Entrées: \$7.95-\$16.95.

Since 1996, time for sushi has come to Brooklyn with Sushi Okdo, which opened in 2001 as part of the culinary empire of the Blue Ribbon Sushi chain.

(They also have Blue Ribbon locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn.) Sushi Okdo, which has the same name in Manhattan, and Blue Ribbon Bakery) Try executive chef and owner, Michael Wilson's, a tasty treat made with steamed

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Atlantic and Pacific, as well as a

huge sake list. Open daily for dinner

only, and Sundays.

— Linnéa Covington

Photo: Michael Wilson

JAPANESE FOOD TERMS

Edamame: soybeans

Hamachi: yellowtail fish

Kame: crab stick

Mentaiko: fish roe

Mochi: sweet rice dough

Shiso: mint

Yuzu: a citrus fruit

ties is the crispy salmon "panabo," a fresh piece of salmon fried in pineapple miso sauce. The result is a combination of sweet, tangy, flaky, spicy pieces of succulent salmon on the inside.

At 4 pm on Saturday, there is something for everyone. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Zenkiichi

717 Myrtle Ave, at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 260-2905. www.zenkiichi.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrées: \$5.50-\$18 or \$44 (lunch & Sushi & Sashimi menu).

Dotorst, Roter Ebing, Rheingold

June, "Cape Maidens,"

Robertson, South Africa

Stellenbosch

Chateau Calissane, Languedoc

Mallo, Rose of Pinot Noir, Alsace

Villa Aljibes, Catilla

Bonny Doon "Vin Gré de Cigare"

California

Beckett's Flat, Five Stones,

Mountain View (Mother)

Castalago, "Il Mimo"

Rosato di Nebbiolo

Dalton, Galilee (Kosher) Semi-Dry

Chateau Lafran-Voyelle, Bandol

Wolffer, The Hamptons, Long Island

Zeni, Pinot Grigio Ramato, Dolomiti

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Stellenbosch

Chateau Calissane, Languedoc

Mallo, Rose of Pinot Noir, Alsace

Villa Aljibes, Catilla

Bonny Doon "Vin Gré de Cigare"

California

Beckett's Flat, Five Stones,

Mountain View (Mother)

Castalago, "Il Mimo"

Rosato di Nebbiolo

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Zeni, Pinot Grigio Ramato, Dolomiti

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June, "Cape Maidens,"

Robertson, South Africa

Stellenbosch

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Mallo, Rose of Pinot Noir, Alsace

Villa Aljibes, Catilla

Bonny Doon "Vin Gré de Cigare"

California

Beckett's Flat, Five Stones,

Mountain View (Mother)

Castalago, "Il Mimo"

Rosato di Nebbiolo

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shore Road between 69th and 72nd streets, Bay Ridge. (718) 238-7948.

WATERFRONT MUSEUM: Housed aboard the last remaining covered wagon in the country, the museum presents the exhibit "Destination: Red Hook." Learn the history of the neighborhood, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., 290 Conover St. (718) 238-7948.

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY: Smack Mellon Gallery hosts an art auction and Kentucky Derby-themed one plus a quail. A work of art to take home is included in ticket price. Auction starts at 4 p.m.; race post time at 5:58 p.m. Auction at 6:30 p.m. 92 Plymouth St. (718) 838-8761.

RECEPTION Ensemble Pample-

moose performs at NatureArt Gallery. Closing reception for "Serial Meditations," an exhibit which focuses on drawing and sculpture, 5 to 8 p.m. 17 Eastern Parkway. (718) 624-2083.

HUNT FOR WILD ASPARAGUS: Wildman Steve Brill leads his Wildman's Walks. Hunt for the elusive asparagus in Marine Park, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for youngins, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations required. (718) 835-2153.

FLYING FISH: The annual event travels 42 miles throughout NYC, using canals, streets, hills and parks. Info: (718) 238-8500.

GODFATHER'S: Lafayette

OUTDOORS AND TOURS: "The

2 p.m., 17 Eastern Parkway. (718)

WOOD CEMETERY: Wood Cemetery hosts a tour of its trees, ponds and sculptures, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations required. (718) 238-7948.

SEARCH FOR ASPARAGUS: Wildman Steve Brill leads his Wildman's Walks. Hunt for the

asparagus in Marine Park, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for youngins, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations required. (718) 835-2153.

SHAKESPEARE: "Much Ado About Nothing," directed by

Verona," 2 p.m. See Sat., May 3.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Man of La Mancha," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 3.

ENDGAME: 3 p.m. See Sat., May 3.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "The

House of Blue Leaves," 8 p.m. See

Sat., May 3.

OTHER:

SPRING FEST: Gowanus Canal CDC

Hosts the Court Street Spring Festival. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Court Street, from Front Street to West Ninth Street. (718) 444-6028.

BARGEMUSIC: Music program:

"Here and Now: American Composers," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 3.

FLU QUARTET: performs, \$35, \$30

seniors and \$15 students, 4 p.m.

Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

GODFATHER'S: Lafayette

Inspirational Ensemble per-

forms, \$15 adults, \$10 seniors

and \$5 students, 4 p.m.

Memorial High School, Lafayette

Memorial High School, 10 a.m. to 2

p.m. www.brooklynflies.com

BOOK TALK: "The Art of Self-

Guided For Greene house tour.

8 p.m. Noon to 5 p.m. Start at 10

Greene Street, between Lafayette

and Brooklyn Flea.

May 3.

JEWISH HERITAGE CELEBRA-

TION: "The Story of the Jews,"

Central branch presents "Show

and Socks: On Holocaust and

Memory," 1:30 p.m. Also, band

at 6:45 p.m. Grand Army Plaza.

www.brooklynmuseum.org

STREB SLAM: Extreme action, 3

p.m. See Sat., May 3.

MON, MAY 5

PAUL SIMON: Paul Simon in con-

nection with the 20th anniversary

of BART, 7 p.m. See Sat., May 3.

BAM: Harvey Theater, 651

Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

TUES, MAY 6

DANCE TECHNIQUE: Brooklyn

Academy of Dance presents "Experi-

cation of the Body: A Klein-

Markovitz Collaboration,"

\$10 for six weeks, \$20 per

drop-in session, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tuesday evenings, 6:45 p.m. to 8:45

Fifth Ave. Registration required.

BOOKCOURT: presents a reading

with Fiona Mazzel, "Last Last

Class," 7 p.m. 103 Court St.

ENDGAME: Brooklyn Academy of

Music presents "Endgame,"

Beckett's "Endgame,"

John Turturro stars along with Max

Cadogan, 8 p.m. \$25 to \$75.

BAM Harvey Theater, 651

Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

EVENING OF AMUSEMENTS: PS

107, 7 p.m. See Sat., May 3.

John Hodgman as part of Fundises:

\$15, 7:30 p.m. 1307 Eighth Ave.

www.fundises.com

ADULT EDUCATION: Humorous

lecture series takes on the topic

of "Is Baby an American

Industry." Speakers include

Famed Prof. Paul Chiusano and

Mom. See Sat., Union Hall, 102

Union St. (718) 638-4400.

WEDS, MAY 7

PLANT SALE: Brooklyn Botanic

Garden presents "Plants for

People," 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

featuring over 20,000 plants, 9

am to 7 p.m. 1000 Washington

Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11215.

WOMEN'S HEALTH: In observ-

ance of Mother's Day, NY

Methodist Hospital offers a

health fair for women. Screenings

and health and nutrition infor-

mation available. 11 a.m. to 2

pm. 263 Seventh Ave. (718)

783-5300.

DOCUMENTARY: Brooklyn Bo-

rough President Marty Marko-

with his wife, Karen Siegelman,

Laureate Ken Siegelman with a

showing of "Fading to Zero,"

a documentary about the

work and life of Siegelman, 6:30

pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718)

783-5300.

POETRY READING: Tony

Town and Michele Mastri

present "Poetry in the City,"

7 p.m. 191 Smith St. (718) 643-9911.

THAI ESSENTIALS: Center for

Thai Culture presents a

cooking class, \$70, 6:30 p.m. to

9:30 p.m. 230 Bayberry Island

Ave. (718) 513-9923.

LECTURE: Society of Old Brooklyn presents "Brooklyn's Last Victorian," Ceasar Del Valle in a talk, "Brooklyn's Smallest Theaters," 7:30 p.m. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 783-5300.

COURT BUILDING: Court and

Monroe Streets. (646) 873-

9711.

BRC STUDIO: presents singer

and actress Bill

Withers Project, \$12, 10 p.m.

8 p.m. 647 Fulton St. (718) 636-1982.

ENDGAME: 7:30 p.m. See Sat.,

May 10.

THURS, MAY 8

THAI ESSENTIALS: Center for

Thai Culture presents a

cooking class, \$70, 11 a.m. to 2

pm. 1407 Cony Island Ave.

(718) 783-5300.

OPENING: "Transformation:

Celebrating 10 Years of Manufac-

turing," an exhibit that

looks at both the evolution of

manufacturing and the future

of the Gowanus Canal, \$6, \$4 stu-

dents, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, 123 Columbia

St. (718) 248-0040.

SHAKESPEARE: Brooklyn College

Department of Theater presents

"Much Ado About Nothing,"

5:30 p.m. 1000 Washington Ave.

(718) 238-1010.

BARGEMUSIC: Jazz Night with

Jim Clegg and the Herd,

8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing,

Old Fulton Street, the East River.

(718) 624-2083.

PLANT SALE: Brooklyn Botanic

Garden presents "Gardening for

Beginners," 9 a.m. to noon.

See Weds., May 7.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Man of La

Marcha," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 10.

FRI, MAY 9

BOOK SALE: Books of Books,

CDS, VHS, Videos, and

more. Preview from 9 a.m. to 10

am; \$10 admission. 10 a.m. to 4

pm. 1000 Washington Ave.

Unitarian Congregational

Society, 126 Monroe Pt. (718)

424-5556.

See 9 DAYS on page 14

FREE Apple Diagnostic!
The Mac Support Store
 Brooklyn's First Apple Authorized Repair Shop!

Mac and iPod Repair • Data Recovery • New Macs for sale •

168 7th Street and 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215

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BerkeleyCarroll
Children's
DAY CAMP
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Our campers will explore their interests, stretch their imaginations, and nurture their talents by participating in a wide array of camp activities.

Information:
jvaldez@berkeleycarroll.org
or 718-789-6060 x6620

BerkeleyCarroll

**Creative
ARTS
PROGRAM**
at Berkeley Carroll

June 30 - July 31, 2008

Visual arts, music, drama, dance, athletics, and more in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

Information:
mlcrary@berkeleycarroll.org
or 718-789-6060 x6540

The Brooklyn Papers' 2008
CAMP GUIDE

Your pick of summer camps

Berkeley Carroll

Creative Arts Program

181 Lincoln Pl, Park Slope
(718) 789-6060 x 6540
berkeleycarroll.org

Director: Marlene Clary

Ages: 8 & up

June 30 - July 31

Full day: 9 am-4pm

Extended hours: 3 pm-6pm

Activities: 85 classes in music, writing, athletics, media, graphic arts, all in air conditioned classrooms, daily noontime performances, plus performances and exhibitions at the end of camp. Swimming also offered.

Children's Day Camp

181 Lincoln Pl, Park Slope
(718) 789-6060 x 6620
berkeleycarroll.org

Director: Judy Valdez

jvaldez@berkeleycarroll.org

PreK through 3rd Grade

June 30 - July 31

Full Day: 9 am-4pm (also available for younger campers)

Activities: classic day camp, circus camp, puppetry, hands-on science, drama, theater, music, and much more. One-week and mini camps. Swimming also offered. Ask about one and two week mini-camps —

"Let's Dance" and "In and out of the Pool"

**Beth Elohim
Summer Day Camp**

274 Garfield Place, Park Slope
(718) 768-3814, ext. 210
congregationbethelohim.org

Elementary Division

Information:
mlcrary@berkeleycarroll.org
or 718-789-6060 x6540

Director: Bobbie Finkelstein
June 30 to Aug 15
Ages: entering K-4th grades
Full day (9 am - 5 pm)
Extended hours (8 am - 6 pm)
Activities: swim (8 am - 1 pm)
arts and crafts, music, nature, sports, gymnastics, circus arts, trips 2 days per week

Movin' On Travel Camp

Director: Bobbie Finkelstein

June 30 through Aug 15

Ages: entering K-4th grades

Full day (9 am - 5 pm)

Extended hours (8 am - 6 pm)

Activities: Daily trips, swimming, overnight, one-night, one-CIT program for entering 9th grade

**Beth Elohim
Friends Summer Program**

375 Pearl St., Downtown
(718) 852-0200, ext 228

Ages: 2 - 12 years

June 18 - Aug. 1

Activities: Hands-on science, swimming, water skiing, tennis, drama, art, sculpture, cel animation, and more.

Huggs Summer Program

763 President St., Park Slope
(718) 230-5255

Directors: Randie Bader and Gary Siegel

Ages: 2 - 5 years

June 20 - Aug. 1

Full day (9 am - 4 pm)

Half days (9 am - noon or 1 pm)

Activities: Private backyard with water play equipment, trips, art, music, indoor gym.

Kim's Kids' Summer Camp

PS 321, 7th Ave., Park Slope
(718) 768-6419

Director: Dan Moinester

Ages: 4-12 - 11

June 30 - Aug. 8

Full day 9 am - 4 pm

Extended hours 8 am - 6 pm

Flex weeks and number of days per week available.

Activities: Day camp with lots of physical and outdoors activity. Daily trips, including swimming (lake, pool and beach), hikes, museums, zoos, playgrounds, NY Aquarium, Bronx Zoo, Science Center, bowling, climbing, exploring, Sesame Place. Carefully selected adult staff.

Park Explorers

OPEN HOUSE Sat., May 17, 10 am - 1 pm

611 Eighth Ave., Park Slope
(718) 788-3620

Director: Chris Altman

parkexplorers@yahoo.com

Ages: 4 to 14

June 27 to August 29

Full day 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Extended hours 8:30 am - 6:30 pm

Early drop off 8:30 am

Bus transportation in many brownstone Brooklyn areas

Activities: No two days alike!

Spots of all kinds, nature walks,

hiking, swimming, crafts, gymnastics,

tennis, drama, karate,

singing, trips each week in and

around NYC. Special programs

in sports and theater for third

grade and up.

Park Slope Day Camp

OPEN HOUSE Sundays, May

4 & 17, at 2 pm

In Windsor Terrace, Park Slope, Kensington, Bay Ridge

(718) 788-7732

camp@parkslopedaycamp.com

Director: Linda Schnider

Ages: entering P-K-9th grades

June 30 to Aug 29

Full day (8 am - 4 pm), early

dismissal optional for young

kids. Extended hours 8:30 am -

3:30 pm

Transportation: free morning

shuttle from most Brownstone Brooklyn and Bay Ridge

Activities: outdoor camp with

sports, trips, gymnastics, drama,

music, arts, Olympics, travel

camp (featuring overnight trips), leadership program for

grades 9 and 10.

Accredited by the American

Camp Association

Poly Prep

Summer 2008

OPEN HOUSE Saturday April

12, 9 am - noon

See CAMPS on page 13

PARK EXPLORERS SUMMER DAY CAMP

ages 4-14

Weekly & monthly sessions

Different Activities daily

For Information:

718-788-3620

parkexplorers@yahoo.com

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opportunities for children to grow, to learn, and to

develop their talents and interests. SUMMER CAMP for

2 to 12 year olds and SUMMER ARTS for 8 to 12 year

olds are distinguished by their outstanding faculty and

favorable teacher-student ratio. The experience for kids

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- Safe, fun, stimulating environment
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- Free morning transportation from most Bay Ridge and Brownstone Brooklyn areas
- Established 1992

Open House For Summer Camp

Sundays, May 4
presentations at 2
and 3 pm
339 8 Street
(Just below 6 Avenue)

718-788-PSDC (7732)

www.ParkSlopeDayCamp.com

Jewish Sports Academy

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• Swimming • Judais Study • Dramatics
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2 two-week sessions: 1st session (6/30-7/11)
2nd session (7/14-7/25) Cost: \$500 per session
3rd session three-week session (7/28-8/14) Cost: \$800
Hours: 9am-3pm • Extended care 8am-9am and 3:30pm Cost: \$300 per session

AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ARAHIM

117 Remsen Street, Brooklyn Heights
Contact Michael Goldin (718) 928-4192
Michaelgoldin@yahoo.com • www.jewishsportsacademy.org

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

PARENT

Miley and Teen Spirit shed things

It's the same old story, isn't it? The hot "it" girl — record or film or book or sex video to promote so she poses half naked in a national magazine. That's the predictable, but can't be helped, American decline: values and the predictable apology. But the record or film or book or sex video goes on to huge success, and she's naked again, it's quickly forgotten.

Not this time. This time, the "it" girl was 15-year-old Miley Cyrus, whose alter ego, Hannah Montana, was supposed to be the future. Her secret is the one who always plays clean (even as she made millions for Disney).

So why did she do it?

There's the obvious. Because of Cyrus' parent figures — from Disney to her agents to the celebrity photographer, Annie Leibovitz to Cyrus' should-know-better parents — there's more about the fictional Hannah than the real Miley.

Indeed, if you watch the "behind the scenes" footage on the [Vanity Fair](http://www.VanityFair.com) website, you can see Miley's family by Cyrus, chatting amiably with the famous photographer, Annie Leibovitz and her staff.

Clearly nothing was troubling him at the time.

But all over the world, the fingers started pointing. Disney, which has been

milking the Cyrus cash cow for years, blasted Vanity Fair with a statement: "A situation was created to deliberately manipulate a 15-year-old in order to sell magazines."

Isn't that what's called the *teen spirit*?

Indeed, blaming Vanity Fair is behind the warden for crime. Anyone who sits for Leibovitz knows the Faustian bar-

gain. Get a record to promote, honey? Take that top off and let's see if we can help. Get a record, sell it, then blame Miley. But

to Smartmont's way of thinking, Cyrus is the victim in this American kabuki.

And Smartmont knows be-

cause he's 16-year-old Te-
en Spirit, just shaved his
head.

No, that's not a metaphor. The other night Teen Spirit called and told Hefcat that he shaved his head.

"Not exactly shaved. But

my hair is really, really short," he said.

Smartmont nearly fainted when she saw her firstborn looking like a military recruit, looking like a Spanish soldier behind his hair. *Violet* is his invisibility shield, the sheath that protects him from the world.

But that was then, this is

A and just as America's Teen Spirit, just shaved his head.

No, that's not a metaphor. The other night Teen Spirit called and told Hefcat that he shaved his head.

"Not exactly shaved. But

and then she realized that this seemingly self-destructive act made all the sense in the world. She's 16-year-old Teen Spirit. Miley Cyrus are adolescents. Both feel the need to reinvent themselves and show the world that they've been defined by their public personas (in Miley's case, she's not happy always being Hannah Montana; in Teen Spirit's case, it was clearly time to throw off the shackles of the slacker who just got a car).

Who can blame either of them for wanting to reinvent themselves? Isn't that what being an adolescent is all about?

Like Miley, Teen Spirit don't want to be a character.

And that's the message of the Vanity Fair pictures, but, sure, she's partly unclothed, but you can see anything unclothed.

Smartmont was sorry that Miley had to be the victim of Vanity Fair to do this growing up.

But then again, teens in Park Slope have to become adults under the skeptical gaze of their parents, teachers, their teachers, their parents, friends, and their neighbors (that's like Vanity Fair, right?).

Posing semi-nude for Annie Leibovitz is breaking your head on, what? What's the difference? It's all part of growing up and trying to discover who you really are.

Indeed, Cyrus has nothing to apologize about, except perhaps the half-baked apology she made this week.

"The photo shoot was supposed to be 'artistic,' and now ... I feel so embarrassed," she said.

Embarrassed? About what? She may not go to high school

again. She may not go to college again.

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"The photo shoot was supposed to be 'artistic,' and now ... I feel so embarrassed," she said.

Embarrassed? About what?

She may not go to high school

again. She may not go to college again.

Smartmont was sorry that Miley had to be the victim of Vanity Fair to do this growing up.

But then again, teens in Park Slope have to become adults under the skeptical gaze of their parents, teachers, their teachers, their parents, friends, and their neighbors (that's like Vanity Fair, right?).

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